

# Family Education Newsletter

KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

FEBRUARY 2004

## USING AN INTERPRETER

*by Rita Zirnheld, KSD Interpreter Coordinator*

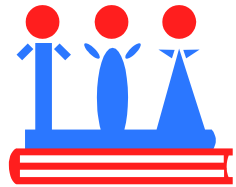
Using an interpreter is not something that comes natural. In fact, it is very awkward for both the deaf and hearing parties if they are unfamiliar with using an interpreter. As a parent you can help educate your child on how to use an interpreter if you first learn. In the state of Kentucky all interpreters must be licensed with the Kentucky Board of Interpreters. There is a temporary license for interpreters who have yet to pass the national certification for interpreters. This license is good for two years. Temporary licensed interpreters can **ONLY** work in educational settings.

The number one problem interpreters have in working with parents and children is encouraging and teaching the parents to not serve as an interpreter. The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) ensures deaf individuals of all ages the right to have an interpreter. This means at the doctor's office, at the hospital, emergency room, library programs, etc your child should be provided with an interpreter at no cost to you. When you interpret for these appointments, you confuse your role as a parent. It is impossible to separate your parental role, emotionally and mentally, with the role of an interpreter. By taking advantage of the ADA to have interpreters in these appointments/settings, you will also educate your child at an early age on how to use an interpreter and release yourself from that extra responsibility.

If your child is mainstreamed with an interpreter remember, that the interpreter is **NOT** responsible for the child's success or failure in the classroom, it is the responsibility of the teacher (and the student). Do not rely on the interpreter for educational information on your child. Your relationship should be with the teacher. The interpreter is responsible for the communication aspect of the education and that is all. The interpreter is not an aide or tutor. Often times, the teachers and parents put too much responsibility onto the interpreter.

Once you have made the decision to use interpreters for your child you can do so more efficiently by educating everyone involved: people you deal with, yourself and your child on how to use the interpreter. Below are some tips on how to use an interpreter:

- Everything said (by voice) will be interpreted by the interpreter - nothing will be censored or softened
- Everything signed will be voiced for the hearing parties- nothing will be censored or softened
- Do not talk **TO** the interpreter - the interpreter is not a part of the discussion



Supporting our children through home-school communication.

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The Kentucky School for the Deaf's FAMILY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER is published monthly during the school year.

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[www.ksd.k12.ky.us](http://www.ksd.k12.ky.us)

To contact the KSD Family Education Newsletter Editor, Pat Bruce, call the school at 859-239-7017, ext 2503 (TTY or Relay Service); email her at [pbruce@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:pbruce@ksd.k12.ky.us), or write to  
KSD  
PO Box 27  
Danville KY 40423



### Using an Interpreter (continued from Page 1)

- The interpreter is not allowed to be involved or interject personal opinions
- Hearing people tend to address their conversation to the interpreter because the deaf person cannot hear them, please encourage them to look at the deaf person when speaking instead of the interpreter
- When addressing the deaf person speak in first and second person, say "How are you today? What is it you need?" Avoid saying, "Tell him/her ..." or "Ask him/her...."
- Talk at a normal rate and do not exaggerate mouth movements or raise your voice level

Interpreters work hard as a professional to achieve national certification and follow the Code of Ethics. They hold true to rules of confidentiality and continued improvement through professional development and workshops. If you have any questions about interpreting, please feel free to contact the Interpreting Department at KSD at 859-239-7017 X2171 or email Rita Zirnheld at [rzirnhel@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:rzirnhel@ksd.k12.ky.us). For ADA questions or concerns you can contact the Kentucky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1-800-372-2907 or email them at [www.kcdhh.org](http://www.kcdhh.org)

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### PEER READING IN N.KY

Justin Howell and Tyler Stoeckel, two deaf third graders in the Northern Kentucky/KSD Regional Program, go to the deaf Preschool classroom to read to the children. They take responsibility to choose an appropriate book and prepare on their own. Donna Lynne, preschool teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing, says that her students really loved having Justin and Tyler come read to them. The boys read to their younger peers on a regular basis. What an excellent language opportunity for these little ones and wonderful role models they get to see!



\* \* \* \* \*

### ATHLETIC EVENTS



<u>HIGH SCHOOL Basketball</u>			<u>GIRLS</u>	<u>BOYS</u>
Feb. 3	Highview Baptist H.S.	away	6:00	7:30
Feb. 6-7	Garrett Walker Friendship Classic at the N. C. School f/t Deaf			
Feb. 10	Model High School;	away	6:00	7:30
Feb. 17	Walden High School	home	6:00	7:30
<b>HOMEcoming and PARENTS DAY:</b>				
Feb. 20	N. C. School for the Deaf		6:00	7:30
Feb. 21	W.Va School for the Deaf		6:00	7:30
Feb. 24	Sayre High School	away	6:00	7:30
Feb. 26	Louisville Collegiate H.S.	away	6:00	7:30

#### Boys MIDDLE SCHOOL Basketball

Feb. 2 - Burgin Middle School; home; 6:00/7:00

Feb. 5 - Model Middle School; away; 6:00/7:00

Feb. 9-12 - Bluegrass Conf. Middle School Tournament (hosted by KSD)



## PREPARING FOR THE WORLD OF WORK...

*by Judy Burkhead, KSD Careers Teacher*

As parents, we all have dreams for our children. Happiness, health, success and a career that gives satisfaction may be a few of the dreams you and your child share. As the parent of a deaf/hard of hearing child you are sometimes called upon in special ways to make sure your child reaches those dreams. Choosing a career is one of those times. Research shows that it is children early and often about what career opportunities are available, how to make that all important choice using information about interests, values and abilities as well as how to acquire the important skills for a chosen career.

The required career classes at KSD are aimed at helping our students understand possible choices, educational requirements, their own interests, values and abilities as well as acquire necessary skills for work such as completing an application, writing a resume and a letter of application and how to answer questions in a job interview. While the work we do at school is important, the work you do at home may be the **most** important in this area. Please spend time talking to your child regularly about what they want for their future and how to get there. This isn't a one time conversation but one parent's need to have regularly. Help your child set short and long term goals (things I want to work toward), write them down and then measure progress toward these goals. If you have Internet, a very helpful website is <http://careerparent.com>. This site features a parent newsletter with articles and activities to help you guide your child in planning for their future. At the bottom of the page are links for parents of children 8-12, 13-17 and 18 and up. These links take you to information that is specific for your child right now and can grow with your child. You can sign up for a regular e-mail newsletter that features new information and articles each time. The best part is it is free! I also invite you to visit my web page on the KSD site for information about Middle School and High School Career Classes. On the KSD page click "KSD High School" just under the address and phone number, next click "Judy Burkhead Careers" on the right side of the page. From time to time, this page features student work as well as other useful information.

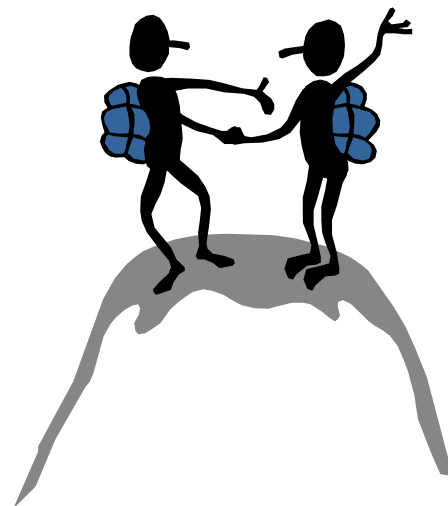
I can tell you from experience, that time passes all too quickly and your child will soon stand at the threshold of the adult world - whether you are ready to see them step out or not. It is never too early or too late to prepare your children for success, but it means you must start helping them prepare today. Your child's future happiness and success may well depend on the work you do now to help them prepare for that step into the world.

If I can be of help in any way please feel free to contact me at the school or via e-mail. I'm excited about the possibilities the children we care about can have in their future and look forward to working with you to help them find the path!

\* \* \* \* \*



*The parents of teenagers  
know why  
some species eat their*





## SIGN CLASSES... HERE and THERE

### Paducah:

Sign classes have started for Paducah and surrounding areas. They are held in the McCracken County Public Library, Tuesday nights, from 6:30-8:30. For more information about this class and other classes, contact Tina at [SilentSigner@aol.com](mailto:SilentSigner@aol.com) or call 270-534-1484.

### Elizabethtown:

Sign programs are happening at Cici's Pizza on Dixie Highway from 5:30-7:00, on Tuesday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Owensboro:

Meet at McDonald's on Highway 60 at the By-Pass for sign classes on Thursday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7:00 pm.

### Bowling Green:

Sign classes happen at the Mall Food Court on February 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> (Tuesdays), from 5:30-7:00 pm.

### Danville:

The 9-week Community Sign Classes will begin on Monday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30 pm. There is a Family Class in Walker Hall (beginning level) as well as the Intermediate-Beginning and Advanced-Beginning classes (in Lee Hall). There is no fee for family members and childcare is provided (for families only, in Walker Hall).

Barb Snap continues to host a sign class for families and bus drivers every Friday morning in Walker Hall, at 9:00. There is no fee for this class.

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## KSD PTCA EVENTS...

Parents are working to make the KSD PTCA more active again. They are planning several events for the rest of this semester.

Parent Meeting - come to KSD's Walker Hall cafeteria on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. We'll be talking about how to rejuvenate the PTCA and get parents more involved with their child's education.

Parent Leadership Training - the KSD PTCA is in the process of talking with the American Society for Deaf Children. ASDC will come to KSD to do a Leadership Training, (we hope) the end of March. This event will be open to KSD families and non-KSD families. We'll learn how to best advocate and work with professionals to meet our children's needs.

Family Learning Vacation and Pancake and Sausage Day - We are working with KSD's Family Education Services and with the KSD Alumni Association to get these events going again. More news soon!

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## SHARED READING PROJECT



The Kentucky Early Years (KEY) Project is sponsoring the Shared Reading Project (SRP). This project pays trained tutors (deaf adults) to make home visits with the families of young children (ages 0-6) who are deaf or hard of hearing. The tutor teaches the family how to read popular children's books using American Sign Language. This is a research-based project that has been proven to help young children improve early reading skills and communication skills. If you or another family is interested in having a SRP tutor visit your home, call Cathy Howle at 888-786-5551 or email her at [chowle@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:chowle@ksd.k12.ky.us).

You are invited to join other families from  
The Kentucky School for the Deaf  
to

## **"REJUVENATE the PTCA"**

We are going to make the PTCA active again. We have several projects being planned and want your input...

- \* What training do you need?
- \* Do you want some time to just talk with other KSD parents to see what's going on?
- \* Can you help with a Pancake and Sausage Day event?
- \* Do you want to learn more about how to advocate for your child?
- \* How can the KSD-PTCA best support the needs of families from across the state?
- \* How can you become more involved with your child's education at KSD?

Join us for an evening of networking and support.

**Thursday, February 26, 2004**

**6:30-8:30 pm**

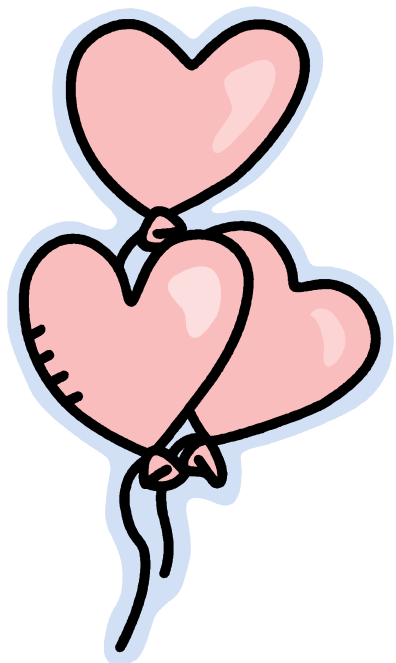
**Walker Hall Cafeteria**

*A limited number of Brady Hall Guest Apartments are available at no charge to KSD families coming in from out-of-town.*

*Contact Pat Bruce at KSD to make your reservation.*

Refreshments provided by KSD Family Education  
Childcare for ages 0-11, provided by the KSD PTCA





## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Feb. 4 - Toddler Playgroup in  
Walker Hall at 1:00

Thursday, Feb. 12 - Student Homegoing at 1:00

Friday, Feb. 13 and  
Monday, Feb. 16 - **NO SCHOOL**

Wednesday, Feb. 18 - Toddler Playgroup in  
Walker Hall at 1:00

Thursday, Feb. 26 - Parent Meeting at 6:30 pm  
in the Walker Hall Cafeteria

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